REMARKS

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of February 17, 2005.

Reconsideration of the Application is requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1-11 remain in this application. Claims 12-35 have been withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tonkin (U.S. Patent Application 2005/0015392 A1) in view of Betts (U.S. Patent No. 5,428,694).

Claims 3-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tonkin in view of Betts and in further view of Yankovich (U.S. Patent No. 6,704,906).

The Claims Distinguish Over the References of Record

Claim 1 calls for associating an electronic data file with the document component node. The Applicant believes that Tonkin fails to teach association of a data file with a component node. The Examiner references paragraph [0054] of Tonkin as teaching this claim limitation. The applicant respectfully submits that this section of Tonkin describes associating a file with the document as a whole, rather than associating a file with a component node. The user in Tonkin performs this step as soon as the document is created (paragraph [0054] lines 5-7); this occurs before the several components of Tonkin are created. If the document has not yet been parsed into sub-nodes, it would be impossible for Tonkin to associate a file with a sub-node.

Tonkin is laid out in a generally chronological manner, stepping through the actions that a user would take from the creation of a document to the completion of document assembly. If Tonkin contains discussion of document nodes, it stands to reason that Tonkin would discuss the creation of a parent node before the creation of sub-nodes of the parent node. The Examiner references paragraph [0071] as teaching a parent document node; this is after the section referenced as teaching the sub-nodes. The Applicant believes that there may be an alternative interpretation of Tonkin, one in which Tonkin fails to teach associating data files with document component nodes.

Further, claim 1 calls for selecting one of a set of document forms to apply to the document. The Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Tonkin and Betts fails to teach document forms as claimed in claim 1. The term "document form" is defined in the Applicant's specification at pages 16-17. It is said to include such operations as folding, cutting, stitching, binding, and gluing. Several examples of document forms are then provided. The document forms, as used in Betts, are layout patterns that software assigns to a document after being scanned in preparation for applying an OCR process. Betts scans a document, and based on the general layout or a barcode designation, Betts classifies it as having a certain form to aid the OCR processing. The document forms of Betts are layouts, and the document forms of claim 1 are finishing operations. Thus, the combination of Tonkin and Betts fails to teach selecting one of a set of document forms as claimed in claim 1. For the above stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that **Claim 1** and **claims 2-11** dependant therefrom distinguish patentably and unobviously over the references of record.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1-11) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, she is hereby authorized to call Pat Roche, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP

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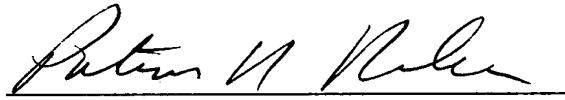
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